

TABLE S7-8

Public confidence in leaders of the scientific and medical communities, by respondent characteristic: 2018

(Percent)

Characteristic	A great deal		Some		Hardly any		Don't know	
	Scientific community	Medical community						
All adults (n = 1,563)	44	37	47	50	6	13	3	*
Sex								
Male (n = 712)	50	40	43	49	6	11	2	*
Female (n = 851)	39	35	50	51	7	14	4	1
Formal education								
Less than high school diploma (n = 176)	29	36	50	47	15	15	6	2
High school diploma (n = 451)	37	34	52	50	8	16	3	*
Some college (n = 459)	37	33	53	52	6	15	4	1
Bachelor's degree (n = 308)	59	39	37	53	2	8	1	0
Graduate or professional degree (n = 169)	68	51	30	43	1	6	1	0
Science and mathematics education ^{a,b}								
Low (n = 190)	33	37	53	47	10	14	4	2
Middle (n = 83)	37	24	58	61	1	15	4	0
High (n = 93)	52	44	44	50	4	6	0	0
Family income (quartile) ^b								
Bottom (n = 350)	37	37	51	49	8	13	4	*
Third (n = 309)	37	32	50	47	9	21	4	*
Second (n = 379)	45	34	48	51	5	15	1	*
Top (n = 392)	55	39	40	52	4	8	2	*
Age (years) ^b								
18–24 (n = 140)	52	51	40	40	6	8	2	0
25–34 (n = 287)	42	34	50	47	7	19	1	0
35–44 (n = 277)	49	33	41	53	7	14	3	0
45–54 (n = 225)	44	36	48	48	6	16	2	*
55–64 (n = 285)	39	36	54	53	5	11	2	*
65 or older (n = 344)	42	35	45	56	7	8	6	2
Correct answers to questions about basic scientific facts ^c								
Low (n = 77)	29	47	52	41	13	9	6	2
Middle (n = 167)	32	32	56	51	8	16	4	0
High (n = 146)	52	34	45	55	2	10	*	1

* = < 0.5% responded.

^a For science and mathematics education, "low" equates to five or fewer high school and college science or mathematics courses, "middle" is six through eight courses, and "high" means nine or more courses.

^b Categories do not add to total *n* because "don't know" responses and refusals to respond are not shown.

^c See notes to Table S7-1 for an explanation of the questions asked about basic scientific facts.

Note(s)

Responses are to the following: *As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say that you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?* Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Source(s)

NORC at the University of Chicago, General Social Survey (2018).

Science and Engineering Indicators